

SPOTLIGHT
PAGE

CAPITAL REPORT

Misdirected Foreign Aid

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31. — John Foster Dulles' appropriation prospects are clouding up, progressively, with the approach of the second session of the 85th Congress, which begins one week from today.

Congressional leaders already are chary of overseas operations to the extent that they have been planning a new watchdog committee, with roving on-the-spot investigators to check on policy and expenditures. They now are reinforced by findings of Senator Bourke Hickenlooper (R) of Iowa, particularly in the Far East.

In the private report he is compiling for fellow members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he says he found much "misdirection" of foreign aid funds—a polite, if understated diagnosis — and drastic overstaffing of foreign posts, to no accomplishment.

In the little Indo-China kingdom of Cambodia, with a total population of about three million inhabitants, the United States diplomatic mission used to have six to eight persons. It now has approximately two hundred.

It is one of the most backward countries of the world. The king has a cabinet of some 15 men, only two of whom have what we would rate, as the equivalent of a high school education. Some of them are not even grade-school level.

There is no particular trade to be developed, the people are not receptive to Western ways or Western standards and during the century of French colonial control, the country and the population were held in constant suppression.

Senator Hickenlooper reports that this was a pretty standard pattern in the Far East, and that the threat of Communism does not seem to be affected one way or the other by the activities of the various United States missions.

The Hickenlooper report dovetails with a persistent series of less comprehensive studies that other committee members have turned in over several years, with particular complaints against Allen Dulles, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency. Also, there is the very derogatory report which Vice President Nixon brought back from his good-will tour of Africa.

The latter, however, were incidental and largely the result of casual observation. The Hickenlooper report, on the contrary, is the result of three months of specific study.

It includes, also, an appraisal of the NATO situation that is considerably less than optimistic. The Iowa Senator believes that any real threat of attack by Russia would drive our NATO allies—with the possible exception of Great Britain—into immediate declarations of neutrality.

This, in turn, suggests that the NATO installations, with their staggering cost, are wasted and might even fall to the enemy, come the showdown.

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